

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 TRSE-00

USIA-15 NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 AF-10 SPC-03 L-03 H-03

PA-04 PRS-01 OIC-04 HEW-08 DRC-01 /159 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4274

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY GELBRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO UNN

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FROM USDEL CND

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TAGS: SNAR, UN

SUBJECT: COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS (CND): ITEM 4, DRUG ABUSE

SUMMARY. STATEMENTS ON DRUG ABUSE ITEM GIVEN AFTERNOON FEB. 18 AND ALL DAY FEB. 19. FEW NEW STATISTICS REPORTED BY DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS ON THIS ITEM, BUT SOME GAVE CONSERVATIVE REPORTS OF APPARENT TRENDS IN REDUCTION OF DRUG ABUSE IN THEIR NATIONS. NONE REPORTED EPIDEMIC RISE. SEVERAL MENTIONED ALCOHOL AND MENTHAQUALONE AS SPECIAL PROBLEMS. MOST REFLECTED GREATER INTEREST AND ACTIVITY IN TREATMENT AND PREVENTION EFFORTS THAN IN YEARS PAST, OFTEN STRESSING TOTAL SOCIAL APPROACH. END SUMMARY.

1. REPORTS OF DECLINING PROBLEM. SEVERAL NATIONS SPOKE IN RESERVED TONES OF OBSERVING POSSIBLE DECLINE IN DRUG ABUSE, ESPECIALLY AMONG YOUTH (DENMARK, FRG, MEX, SPAIN, SWEDEN, UK, US), WHILE ONLY TWO SPOKE OF CONTINUING INCREASES (AUSTRALIA, CANADA). NONE MENTIONED EXPLOSIVE OR EPIDEMIC SPREADING OF PROBLEM. SEVERAL OTHERS WERE ALSO CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC.

2. REPORTED ABUSE PROBLEMS. A NUMBER OF DELEGATES, ESPECIALLY FROM EUROPE (FRANCE, SWEDEN, FINLAND) AND SOUTHEAST ASIA (THAILAND, SINGAPORE) MENTIONED METHAQUALONE AS SPECIAL PROBLEM. ALCOHOL ABUSE HAS RAISED A MAJOR PROBLEM IN SEVERAL DEVELOPED NATIONS (CANADA, SWEDEN, FINLAND, ROMANIA). THE USSR, YUGOSLAVIA AND FRANCE WERE OPPOSED, AS IN PAST YEARS, TO DISCUSSING ALCOHOL IN THE CND, PREFERRING TO REFER IT TO THE WHO. OPIUM ABUSE WAS REPORTED AS PRIMARY PROBLEM IN AND NEAR THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE PRODUCERS (PAKISTAN, IRAN, EGYPT, INDIA, THAILAND, SINGAPORE).

3. LACK OF INFORMATION. SEVERAL NATIONS (JAMAICA, DENMARK, SWEDEN, MEXICO, U.S.) AND SECRETARIATE (MARTENS) MENTIONED LACK OF SOUND INFORMATION ON TRUE EXTENT OF DRUG ABUSE. PAKISTAN AND EGYPT MENTIONED DIFFICULTY OF DETERMINING EXTENT OF PROBLEM IN LESS DEVELOPED NATIONS, BOTH CALLING FOR TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THIS AREA.

4. FEW DELEGATES OR OBSERVERS MADE ANY NEW OR SPECIAL OBSERVATIONS ASIDE FROM CORRECTING THEIR STATISTICAL REPORTS ON THE UN REPORT. AUSTRALIA (KELLY) MENTIONED A SPREADING DRUG PROBLEM, ANNOUNCED THAT METHADONE FOR USE IN TREATMENT CENTERS AND AMPHETAMINES FOR LEGITIMATE MEDICAL USE HAD BEEN PLACED UNDER STRICT INTERNAL

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CONTROLS, AND THAT DRUG ABUSE EDUCATION PROGRAMS HAD BEEN EXPANDED.

5. CANADA. SMITH STATED THAT CANADIAN DRUG PROBLEM WAS A SOCIAL SCOURGE CONTRIBUTED TO BY INFLUENCES SUCH AS MEDIA, COUNTER CULTURE, AND DRUG SCENE OF UNMENTIONED NATION WITH WHICH THEY SHARE LONG, OPEN GEOGRAPHIC BORDER. HE REPORTED A CONTINUING INCREASE IN DRUG MISUSE, ESPECIALLY WITH HEROIN AND OTHER NARCOTICS. DR. D.M. SMITH (DEPT. OF NAT'L. HEALTH AND WELFARE)

REVIEWED CANADIAN TREATMENT EFFORTS, MENTIONING THAT THERE WAS NOT SAME ENTHUSIASM FOR METHADONE MAINTENANCE AS WAS REPORTED IN SOME OTHER COUNTRIES, AND ONLY 1,600 CANADIANS ARE IN SUCH PROGRAMS WHILE RESIDENTIAL DRUG-FREE PROGRAMS ARE MORE POPULAR. INCREASING GOVERNMENT ATTENTION IS BEING GIVEN TO PREVENTING DRUG ABUSE PROBLEMS.

6. EGYPT. EL HAKIM NOTED AN INCREASE IN THE ABUSE OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES DUE TO A CHANGE IN TRAFFICKING PATTERNS, MENTIONED NEEDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR TREATMENT PROGRAMS, AND AGAIN RAISED PROBLEM OF Khat CHEWING IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

7. FRANCE. VAILLE SUGGESTED UN OR WHO SHOULD STUDY WHY DRUG ABUSE, ESPECIALLY HEROIN USE, IS PREDOMINANTLY A MALE PHENOMENON. HE MENTIONED THAT FRANCE HAD PROBLEM WITH METHAQUALONE, BARBITURATES AND AMPHETAMINES, AND HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURE OF THESE SUBSTANCES.

8. MEXICO. CASTRO Y CASTRO DESCRIBED RECENT INTENSIFIED TREATMENT, EDUCATION, AND REHABILITATION EFFORTS PRIMARILY BASED ON PSYCHIATRIC AND SOCIAL WELFARE INSTITUTIONS. HE NOTED THAT FOR OVER A YEAR MANY AUTHORITIES HAD NOTED DECLINE IN DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM. ONE REASON GIVEN BY EXPERTS, IN ADDITION TO STRICT LAW ENFORCEMENT, WAS REDUCTION IN MASS CIRCULATION OF DRUG ABUSE INFORMATION. EXPERIENCE HAD SHOWN IN MOST CASES THAT SUCH MASS CAMPAIGNS HAD HAD EFFECT OF PROMOTING DRUG ABUSE.

9. UNITED KINGDOM. TRAIN REPORTED DECLINE IN TOTAL ADDICTED TO HEROIN AND DECREASE IN NUMBER OF YOUNG ADDICTS UNDER AGE TWENTY. REMAINING ADDICTS ARE OLDER PEER GROUP. BELIEVES DRUG PROBLEM IS CHANGING MARKEDLY.

10. USSR. BABAIAI REPORTED LITTLE OR NO DRUG ABUSE IN USSR, AGAIN UNCLASSIFIED

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WARNED OF DANGERS OF METHADONE MAINTENANCE, SINCE IT MERELY SUBSTITUTES ONE FORM OF ADDICTION FOR ANOTHER. STATED HE HAD EXPRESSED FEARS OF PROBLEMS WITH METHADONE IN EARLIER SESSIONS, HAD BEEN JOINED BY U.S. DELEGATE H. ANSLINGER. HE ALLEGED IT WAS BETTER TO DETOXIFY AND TREAT DRUG FREE, SINCE ADDICTS REMAIN ADDICTS AND THEIR NUMBER WOULD INCREASE.

11. UNITED STATES. STATEMENT BY DUPONT WELL RECEIVED. COPY BEING POUCHED SEPARATELY TO STATE, EXTRA COPIES WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH SAODAP WASHINGTON. DALE

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Draft Date: 26 FEB 1974
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